

THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS INTERESTS

WOMAN'S INQUIRY COLUMN

Letters to the Woman's Inquiry Column are invited. They should be addressed to Editor Woman's Inquiry Column, Washington Times, and should reach the office before Saturday to insure an answer the following week.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Tell me how to clean tan kid gloves.
2. What is the best thing for taking ink spots out of linen?
3. What is the proper way of eating olives at the table?

C. T.

1. Take them to a cleaner. I know no safe way of cleaning them at home.
2. Put five cents' worth of oxalic acid in a four-ounce bottle and fill nearly full with cold water. It will not all dissolve. Wet the ink stain with this solution and hold it over the spout of a boiling tea kettle. Rinse thoroughly with cold water.
3. With your fingers.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Tell me how to decorate a room for a Japanese social.
2. Can you suggest a novel way of serving refreshments at this social?

E. P. B.

1. Have Japanese lanterns suspended in every conceivable place. They can be hung from wires stretched from the chandelier to the ceiling, or from the walls to the floor. To beautify these wires, small tassels should be wound about them. Decorate the walls with pretty Japanese fans. They can be placed very effectively over pictures.
2. Use several tabourettes, each holding a teapot, a sugar bowl, a bowl of sugar cakes and Japanese napkins. Cushions made of matting may be placed on the floor before each tabourette. The guests must sit upon the floor. Those serving should wear the Japanese costume.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. How can I brighten up oil paintings which look dull and dusty?
2. How can I clean gilt frames and regild them?
3. How can I clean a gilded bronze French clock which has become smoky from being over the fire?

S. O. H.

1. Oil paintings may be cleaned in a perfectly harmless way, as follows: Heat the white of one egg to a stiff froth, then stir it into a pint of cold water; then, with a cloth devoid of lint, wash the portrait, trying with a cloth of the same material.
2. To freshen up gilt frames, wipe with a cloth moistened in oil of turpentine, and let the frame dry without rubbing. Preparations for regilding may be had at the art shops.
3. A fine high-grade silver polish should remove the smoke stains. If it proves ineffective I should take the clock to a jeweler and have the polish and regild. This work cannot be done satisfactorily by an amateur.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Give me a recipe for snowflake rolls.

D. R.

Here is a recipe for rolls which will be nice and fluffy if made according to the instructions, although they are not called "snowflake rolls" in the cook book. Sift one quart of the finest flour into a bowl, add one teaspoonful of salt and one teaspoonful of sugar, and add

cup of warm milk and a third of a yeast cake that has been dissolved in three tablespoonfuls of warm water and knead this dough for twenty minutes. Set to rise for six or eight hours, make into rolls, put these into a greased baking pan, and let them rise for half an hour longer before baking.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Tell me how I can clean a white chiffon veil.

L. L. D.

Wash your veil in tepid suds made from a good white soap. Do not rub the chiffon, but squeeze it gently. Rinse in clear water. When it looks clean, pin it on some smooth surface, a prefer a bed, beginning at one end and stretching it tight, sticking the pins about an inch apart. Let it stay stretched until thoroughly dry.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Will you kindly inform me if it is perfectly correct and good form to eat candy in a first-class theater. I see it done a great deal and wonder if it is best people do it.

SOUTHERN.

No, it is not good form to eat candy in a theater at any time. As you will probably observe in this city there is a small box of candy on the back of each seat. This is a great temptation, and as matinees are usually attended by the younger element, especially girls and young women, it is not surprising that they, but certainly not at night.

Edith M. E.—I cannot answer your question for you. You would better consult a physician or a competent instructor in callisthenics on the subject.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. Can you inform me where a good dressmaker for making Princess dresses can be found?
2. What address is proper for heading a letter to a man whom you ever so slightly know as a friend?
3. What is good for cleaning the teeth?

J. W.

1. I cannot recommend any special dressmaker in the column.
2. Address a man whom you know slightly as "Dear Mr. Brown."
3. Any good tooth powder, water and a brush is good for the ordinary daily cleaning given the teeth. You should brush your teeth at least twice a day, particularly, for instance, a semi-yearly cleaning.

To Editor Woman's Inquiry Column:

1. In eating oysters at dinner should they be eaten with any special style of fork?
2. What will thicken eyebrows and eyelashes?
3. What could I use for inflamed eyelids?

G. W.

1. Yes, there is an oyster fork that should be used at the side of the plate when oysters are to be served.
2. Pure alcohol rubbed into the eyebrows and eyelashes with the finger tip is an excellent tonic. A French preparation used for this purpose is composed of red vaseline, 10 grammes, and borax, 10 centigrammes.
3. Consult a physician.



THE DRESSY SEPARATE JACKET.

The dressy dress of the winter season shows signs of enjoying a greater vogue during the spring and summer seasons than ever before, and this vogue has created the necessity for a suitable outer garment. The spring lines show all sorts of little eon and bolero effects, and jaunty little jackets of the pony or polo type, of lace, silk or more antique, one of the spring favorites. A black chiffon taffeta is used in this case, the silk shirred prettily at the shoulder, again at yoke depth and lastly just above the high feathered girdle, which fastens in front with a large silver buckle. The little vest is of white broadcloth, likewise the collar and girdle, these braided with a fine silver soutache. The sleeves are full to the elbow, there to be finished with a shirred cuff, frilled either edge, ruffles of white rose russe lace hanging gracefully from beneath the lower trim.

ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS OBTAINED BY USING FEW TOGETHER

Flowers are such a delight to have in the house that they are worth an effort, and various little stands at street corners sell them now so cheaply that they are by no means an extravagance. One who cares for them is quite willing to make a little sacrifice by way of a bit of ribbon or the like, and feel more than repaid.

Americans still have an idea that a few flowers are nothing; one must have many or none. That is a mistake, for some of the most beautiful effects are gained with only one or two blossoms, and nothing could be more charming than the Japanese method of handling them. Careful scrutiny of pictures, however, will reveal the fact that rarely is more than one blossom placed in a jar at a time, sometimes even foliage being omitted. Therefore, with a little judiciousness in selection the prettiest imaginable effects may be had, and for a dinner table, the jar afterward being carried into the library or general sitting room.

In buying flowers when money is an object it is safe to say that those with long stems will be found most effective. This is because the blossom, as a rule, is large enough to have striking individuality by itself, whereas the short stemmed fine blossoms require a mass to have any decorative value. One jonquil or narcissus in a tall slender vase or jar, using one or two of the long, pointed, narrow green leaves, will be found charming. If you doubt just try it in the center of a dinner table. Three or four blossoms might be better, but if the jar for the single flower is slender enough, and tall (tallness is essential for effect), there will be not the slightest trace of skimpiness. Hyacinths are the least effective of what might be called distinctly the decorative type of flowers, because their stems are never long enough to give a good proportion for the heavy long heads. They are better left in the pots in which they are grown.

Two carnations with one piece of maiden-hair fern thrust loosely into a slender jar will wonderfully improve the looks of a table, but if their heads are so heavy as to bend away over, they should be wired with the lightest quality that can be had. This will make them firm without being stiff. One American Beauty rose alone will decorate a good sized dinner table.

Pine flowers, such as lilies of the valley, forget-me-nots, violets, etc., require very different treatment. They should be put into something low and flaring, that they may spread. Quantity, however, is not important, even with these finest of flowers, for a few loosely arranged will be graceful and all that is necessary to give pleasure to the eye.

The great trouble with the management of flowers usually is overcrowding. It is a fact beyond dispute that three American Beauties with long stems and leaves are far more artistic in a tall vase than if a dozen are used together. Such a quantity detracts from delicacy; it is a cloying and incoherent mass of color that holds the eye instead of allowing it at the same time to appreciate the symmetry and beautiful form of the rose itself. This same effect of overcrowding is given by even a few blossoms if they are tightly tied together. It makes a thick mass, whereas individuality of blossoms and lightness is the thing to be attained.

Another thing to be borne in mind is that the color of the vase or jar should never conflict with the color of the flowers. The holder, except for

grace of form, should be as inconspicuous as possible not to detract from the blossoms. It is for this reason that one of the best kinds of vases is that made from thin white or Bohemian glass, the latter just touched with opalescent colors. Cut glass is, of course, beautiful and being white does not take from the blossoms. Bright-colored porcelain vases may be nice as bric-a-brac, but they were never intended to hold flowers.

Salt is very useful to prevent the flowers from becoming too full blown. Add just a little to the water in the vase. This is also useful for preserving violets. The same bunch may be worn several times if a little thin cotton wool is well dipped in salt water, laid above the stems and then blown. If they are wired, when not being worn take off the wool and wire, place the stalks in a glass of salted water and keep in a cool room, with tissue paper lightly twisted over to exclude the air. But for the preservation of the average blossoms give fresh water each morning, cut the part of the stem that is decaying and put just a little piece of charcoal with the water.

When arranging flowers if possible keep those with strong perfume together, for if they are massed together with others the smells mingle and there is not a distinct one. Recollections will carry the reader back to rooms fragrant with mignonette, or with sweet peas, roses or violets, and the distinctive scent will have its own associations.

Some Timely Items.

Newspapers spread flat under a mattress give a great deal of warmth. Prune juice on dry cereals makes a nice change from cream.

Cold baked potatoes, sliced thin, then put in a baking dish with salt, pepper, butter, and milk, make a better scalloped than raw potatoes, and are delicious with salt, pepper, and butter and serve hot.

A small hole in china can be perfectly mended with plaster of paris. Mix very thin with water and drop into the hole. Let it harden before using.

When eggs are scarce, the place of custard in a cake may be taken by a thin cornstarch flavored with jelly. If your gas burns unevenly, low at one side and with a long flame at the other, you may be sure there is dust in the tip. Run a piece of thin cardboard through it and you will be repaid.

Give the dining room a good airing every day, winter as well as summer. Germs are in dust everywhere, but in the dining room they get into the food and thence into our bodies. The dining room, above all rooms, must be kept clean and well aired. Ventilate all halls. The stale odor of cooling which too often greets one coming in out of the fresh air, savors of a third-rate boarding house.

Don't look sloppy while doing your work. Eschew wrappers, kimono, half-worn or ragged shirt waists and old cloth dresses that hold odors. Even at this season there is nothing so neat and sensible as perfectly plain shirt waists, suits of gingham, or skirts and waists attached as in a nurse's costume. A plain white collar and tie give a good finish, and one is ready to go the door or meet strangers with no apology necessary.

CLEAR COMPLEXION THE RESULT OF CARE AND GOOD HEALTH
Pretty Skin Is Possible to Any Woman Who Will Eat Properly and Observe Rules.

A good complexion is within the grasp of any girl who is determined to get it. All cannot have color of peaches and cream, but they can have clear skin, free from pimples and blotches or roughness.

The latter is not uncommon in winter, as cold weather affects it seriously when there is not sufficient oils to keep it smooth. There are also patches of redness sometimes, and a natural tendency to erythema, which is a congestion and inflammation of epidermis. It means unusual tenderness and an insufficiency of natural oily secretions.

Any external irritation, such as exposure to cold or dry winds, or the direct heat of the sun, may aggravate the condition. It is also caused by a sense of heat and discomfort. The red blotches come and go, and are generally accompanied by roughness. A very common exciting cause is the habitual use of irritating soaps. Highly scented and colored soaps are to be avoided by all who wish for a good complexion. Other causes of erythema are rheumatism and disorders of the digestion.

A disagreeable form of erythema is flushing of the face, which occurs chiefly after eating and is due to improper diet, hasty feeding, over-eating, or drinking cold fluids. General neglect of the health, lack of exercise and living in badly ventilated rooms are all causes of blotchy skins.

Before going into the treatment of the skin, it is well to state that an improvement in the general physical condition can be brought about by simple nourishing food, fresh air, and plenty of exercise. It is better to leave out tea and coffee, and all alcoholic beverages for a time; also to discontinue highly seasoned food from the diet, and to avoid shell fish, pickles, and pastry. Meat in moderate quantities, fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs, and milk, and the best foods for the complexion.

Extremes from heat to cold are to be avoided, and a girl, who coming indoors stands over a radiator, cannot expect to have a clear complexion. There will instead be ugly red blotches. Do without soap as much as possible, and use rain water in preference to ordinary tap water.

The skin should be kept in a saucer or the dressing table and plentifully used; and bags made of muslin, and filled with cran should be soaked in cold water, and may be used if preferred, in place of oatmeal.

But the face daily in warm milk, and wash twice a day with a goodly massage the skin with the tips of the fingers with any good face cream, such as lanoline or cold cream.

After washing, rub a little of the following mixture into the skin: Shake and mix thoroughly together a wineglassful of lime water, a large pinch of borax and half a wineglassful of olive oil. These together will form a thick, white fluid or emulsion, which should be applied to the skin fairly generously and then gently wiped off with a soft towel. It leaves the skin soft, protects it from cold, and acts as an antiseptic—that is, it prevents the skin from being a suitable soil for the microbes which cause acne, boils, etc.

It is well to apply a little glycerine and rose water after being exposed to cold winds; not glycerine alone, as it

extracts water from the skin and increases the tendency to dryness. Roughness of the arms is apt to manifest itself at the same time, and for coat of tar soap will be found beneficial. Make a thick lather and rub into the skin with a white flannel. Dry well and friction with a towel. This treatment by stimulating circulation will frequently be found a cure. Almond oil or cold cream may also be applied.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

Although Japan has revealed herself as highly enlightened in so many spheres of civilization, she has not yet applied reformatory principles to the institution of marriage.

There is as yet no such thing in Japan as equality between the sexes. The law relating to marriage recognizes no wrong done by the part of the wife, from whom the husband may obtain a divorce by merely asserting that he is tired of her, or upon any of the following grounds:

Disobedience, adultery, barrenness, jealousy, physical antipathy, talkativeness by men in search of a wife.

When a girl is about to marry her mother impresses upon her various rules of conduct to be followed during her married life. Some of these are:

"Be always amiable to your mother-in-law and father-in-law."

"Get up early, go to bed late, and never sleep in the afternoon."

"Until you are fifty, never mix in crowds."

"Do not consult fortune-tellers."

"Do not wear light clothes."

"Never allow yourself to be jealous."

"Even if your husband is in the wrong, never get angry."

"Never speak ill of your neighbors."

"Strict obedience to a husband is a girl's noblest virtue."

A Step-Ladder Story.

A student who is devoting his time to the work of tracing the origin of familiar sayings, declares the "step-ladder" lesson which follows was founded on fact:

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost."

"For want of a shoe, the horse was lost."

"For want of a horse, the rider was lost."

"For want of a rider, the battle was lost."

"For want of the battle, the kingdom was lost."

"And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

The rider was aide-de-camp in a European army. He neglected to have a nail driven on in a sort of pretty design, the narrow belts are about 33 and the girdles are as high as 33 and 33.



STUNNING EVENING HAT.

The gold and silver craze is having full sway in the millinery world and gorgeous creations for evening wear are fashioned in these colors. Very stunning is a chapeau built after above sketch. The brim is formed of two deep folds of cloth of gold, and the tam-o-shanter crown is white Irish thread lace. Loops of pink velvet ribbon and a white paradise aigrette are arranged on left side and underneath brim, resting on the hair are bunches of pink tulle, veiled in white tulle, giving a soft, delicate shade.

BEST CHANCE OF MARRIAGE

There are a few girls who seem to realize what a man really requires in a wife. It is necessary that a girl who wishes to be happily married to a good and true man should remember that in choosing a life partner a man invariably decides on a woman who, were she a man, would be his best friend and closest companion.

Some men, of course, marry their opposites. But the majority incline toward the woman whose tastes, characteristics, and sympathies are identical with their own.

There are many girls who cannot take an interest in a man's pursuits and ambitions in life. They live in a purely feminine world, so to speak, composed mostly of dress, fashion, and amusement. Occasionally they may dabble in domestic work; but they regard the latter in the light of a novelty instead of something to be seriously undertaken and thoroughly learned in order to fit them for the position of wife which they may one day attain.

To them a man's work and ambitions are as difficult to understand as the Greek and Hebrew languages. They hope the man in whom they may be interested will succeed in what he wishes to do, but beyond that they are not capable of thinking or acting with him.

A man wants more than this from the girl he is to marry. She must sympathize with him and his ideals, and not only sympathize, but gain some intimate knowledge of his work and ambitions, so that he may be able to talk to her and be understood. By faithfully inviting a man to talk over his worries and difficulties, a girl can learn all she needs about his interests in life. And this is a surprising knowledge, for a man will be drawn to her in consequence. It is to her he will come to talk over his triumphs and failures, know that she will be his best friend and faithful praise, or sympathy and comforting words, which will encourage him to make another start.

The superficial, gushing, frivolous girl does not appeal to the average man. She appears to be too selfish. There seems to be little concern or thought for others in her nature. Of course, there are few men who like what may be termed the thoroughly serious-minded girl. She must be one who can amuse, and who exhibits at times those feminine foibles which make a woman so dear to a man's heart. At the same time, she must be capable of deeper feelings, and the girl who can combine these characteristics has by far the best chance of marrying.

The practical-minded girl, as well as the serious-minded, is much sought after by men in search of a wife.

A man knows a girl has domestic qualities when he hears that she makes her own frocks, and thinks a thing may be fashionable if it is inexpensive as if it is costly.

If she can tell how a dinner should be cooked, whether she can cook meals herself or not; if she knows the value of ready money, and has a horror of being swindled, she is a thing that a man will save money instead of spending it lavishly and recklessly.

Be circumspect in your conduct at home, more especially when a prospective lover visits you. He knows, beyond all possibility of doubt, that the girl who is the best sister and daughter will make the best wife.

Girls should study and practice the virtue of strict economy.

The reason that more do not marry in these days is because the expense of keeping up a comfortable household is far beyond the income of the average man.

Smart Belts.

New imported belts and girdles are made of silk elastic, so that they will fit any waist. They usually are shaded, being quite dark at the bottom and light at the top, and as they come in pink, blue, violet, green and white they are useful and novel for the evening waist. The effect is pretty, as these belts are trimmed with steel or with narrow shirred ribbon and braid, which are sewed on in all sorts of pretty designs. The narrow belts are about 33 and the girdles are as high as 33 and 33.

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NEW MOURNING IS ATTRACTIVE

"That 'there is nothing new under the sun' is proved a false statement when the question of mourning comes up, for surely there were never known such extraordinary fashions as are now provided for those individuals who wish to show respect (?) to their dead."

The old-fashioned, conventional, close fitting bonnet, with large crepe veil, that was always considered absolutely essential has long since been discarded in favor of a most jaunty style of headgear, apparently designed to be as coquettish in appearance as possible. A crepe veil is now indeed larger and more obtrusive than ever, but it is so draped as to have all the folds fall at the back and over the crepe border. For a long time widows were allowed the bonnet with narrow ruffle, but now they are permitted instead hats faced with white chiffon or crepe. It seems to the conservative minded as though this were scarcely in keeping with deep grief, but the trend of the times is to put on as cheerful a face as possible at all times, and consequently the period of mourning must needs be made attractive.

Entire costumes of crepe are considered singularly smart and are delightful to the eye. They are made in elaborate fashions, with ruchings and shirtings, flounces and bias bands. Crepe, as a rule, is the trimming, but dull silk or chiffon is occasionally introduced to break the monotony. Crepe jackets are charming and quite original in design. The smartest and most elegant of these are the blouses with belt, the short, loose sack coat and the three-quarter length, the latter fitting tight, are all among the newest modes introduced to say, while an entire costume of crepe is considered the smartest fashion, separate jackets and coats are thought to look well with different skirts and are worn with cloth or dull silk.

Veils are of varying lengths for six months at least, with an all crepe hat for another three months to follow, but it is not thought incorrect to wear a hat of dull silk, or even crepe, or still more odd, a crepe hat with black wings or mourning flowers.

The list of fabrics that are now included in the mourning list are three times in number what they were—velvet, dull finish silks, mohair, cashmere (not new—the latter—but in new weaves and finish), chevrons in new patterns, crepe in different weaves and a wider range of price than was ever known. All combine to make the planning of the season's wardrobe, even for those who are obliged to wear all black, a pleasurable occupation than in the days gone by, when the one rule to be observed was to wear the cheapest of weeds and the ugliest of clothes.

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shirts, \$1.00 and \$1.25 values, 86c

Tomorrow, 21c

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morrow, 21c

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Tomorrow

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One lot of \$1.00 and \$1.25 Hen-

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yard

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25c Wool Ties, 17c

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